

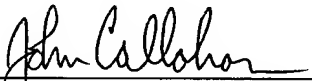
TAKAHATA et al.
Q80091
Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the present application. Claim 4 has been amended to delete an improper multiple dependency. Claims 7-9 have been added to retain the same scope of coverage as in claim 4 prior to the present Preliminary Amendment. The public should be advised that the present Preliminary Amendment is not considered or intended to be a narrowing amendment surrendering any equivalents.

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



John T. Callahan
Registration No. 32,607

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: March 3, 2004